

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 08411 211403Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 CU-04 AID-05 TRSE-00 /078 W
-----115556 211854Z /40

R 211140Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2115
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 8411

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SG, CA
SUBJECT: QUEBEC MINISTER VISITS SENEGAL

REF DAKAR 7999, QUEBEC 470

1. SUMMARY: QUEBECOIS MINISTER OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS MORIN VISITED SENEGAL DEC. 18-20. PROGRAM
(INCLUDING CALL ON PRESIDENT SENGHOR) WAS ARRANGED WITHOUT
KNOWLEDGE OF CANADIAN EMBASSY. HOWEVER, CANADIANS LEARNED
BY ACCIDENT OF PLANS AND SUCCESSFULLY INSISTED ON BEING
INVOLVED IN ALL EVENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. QUEBEC MINISTER FOR INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CLAUDE
MORIN DEPARTED SENEGAL EARLY DEC. 20 AFTER TWO-DAY VISIT
ENROUTE HOME FROM ABIDJAN MEETING OF FRANCOPHONE AGENCY
FOR CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

3. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ASSELIN TOLD ME THAT MORIN HAD
TRIED TO SNEAK INTO SENEGAL BEHIND HIS BACK, BUT HE HAD
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 DAKAR 08411 211403Z

GOTTEN WIND OF VISIT IN ADVANCE, INFORMED OTTAWA, AND
RECEIVED FIRM INSTRUCTIONS THAT CANADIAN EMBASSY BE
INVOLVED IN ALL OF MORIN'S ACTIVITIES. ASSELIN CALLED
ON PRIME MINISTER DIOUF, WHO TOLD HIM THAT MORIN HAD
APPOINTMENT WITH SENGHOR FOR 8:30 A.M. DECEMBER 19
(WHICH HAD BEEN GRANTED WITHOUT CONSULTING OR EVEN
INFORMING CANADIAN EMBASSY). ASSELIN TOLD PRIME MINISTER

THAT OTTAWA FELT VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THE ISSUE. DIOUF RESPONDED QUICKLY BY ISSUING INSTRUCTIONS THAT ASSELIN WAS TO BE IN OFFICIAL GREETING PARTY AT AIRPORT, AND WAS TO ACCOMPANY MORIN TO ALL APPOINTMENTS, INCLUDING AUDIENCE WITH SENGHOR.

4. CANADIAN EMBOFFS ATTACHED THEMSELVES FIRMLY TO MEMBERS OF MORIN'S PARTY WHO CAME TO DAKAR COMMERCIALY ON DECEMBER 17. MORIN HIMSELF ARRIVED NEXT DAY IN STYLE ABOARD PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT AS GUEST OF SENEGALESE MINISTER OF CULTURE ALIOUNE SENE, WHO WAS ALSO RETURNING FROM ABIDJAN. HOWEVER, DUE TO CONFUSION OVER CHANGE IN SCHEDULE, SENEGALESE WELCOMING PARTY FAILED TO MEET PLANE, AND ONLY CANADIAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL WERE AT AIRPORT TO GREET ARRIVING QUEBEC MINISTER. CANADIANS TELL US THAT, THROUGHOUT REMAINDER OF VISIT, BOTH QUEBECOIS DELEGATION AND SENEGALESE FULLY RESPECTED EMBASSY'S DESIRE TO BE INVOLVED IN ALL EVENTS. CANADIANS' ONLY GRIEVANCE IS THAT OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF SENGHOR'S MEETING WITH QUEBEC MINISTER CARRIED BY PRESS AND RADIO/TV POINTEDLY FAILED TO MENTION THAT MORIN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY CANADIAN AMBASSADOR. FYI: MORIN DEEPLY IMPRESSED CANADIAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL--AT LEAST THOSE OF FRENCH EXTRACTION--WITH HIS ABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS.

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PAGE 03 DAKAR 08411 211403Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAKAR08411
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770476-0307
Format: TEL
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771233/aaaabbbl.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ed3216ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 DAKAR 7999, 77 QUEBEC 470
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 161893
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUEBEC MINISTER VISITS SENEGAL
TAGS: PDEV, SG, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ed3216ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009